

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action of May 20, 2005 (hereinafter “the Office Action”). Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 8 and 25 will be amended, and new claims 30 and 31 submitted. Therefore, claims 8 and 21-31 will be pending.

In this Amendment, all references to the claims, except as noted, will be made with reference to the claim list above beginning on page 2. All references to “the Office Action,” except as noted, will be referencing the most recent Office Action dated May 20, 2005. If a source document does not include line numberings, then referenced line numbers will count every printed line, except the page header, but including section headings. If there is any confusion or questions regarding any aspect of this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Amendment

Independent claims 8 and 25 are amended to include a limitation providing context associated with each testable assertion. Claims 30 and 31 are added to further develop the context idea. Support for these amendments can be found in the Application, page 19 line 19 to page 20, line 9. No new matter has been entered by this Amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8 and 21-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,805,795 issued to Whitten (“Whitten”) in view of U.S. Patent 5,892,947 issued to DeLong et al. (“DeLong”), and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,335,342 issued to Pope et al. (“Pope”). Applicants respectfully traverse because the prior art fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation set forth in the claims.

Independent claims 8 and 25 now set forth the feature of associating each testable assertion with a context. The use of contexts helps to identify and track testable assertions.

Each testable assertion is uniquely identified by the assertion text and the context associated with it (Application, page 20, lines 3-4). The prior art does not mention using context as an identifying element for testable assertions. Furthermore, independent claims 8 and 25 now set forth defining each context as a node in a specification tree. None of the prior art references teach or suggest this concept.

For the reasons discussed above Applicants respectfully submit that the present Application is now in condition for Allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 774-6933. If any other fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. SUNMP013). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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